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June 23, 2003

James Irwin, Esq. Irwin, Fritchie, Urquhart & Moore 400 Poydras Street, Suite 2700 New Orleans, LA 70130

Re:

MDL No. 1355 - Section L

In Re: Propulsid Products Liability Litigation

Dear Jim:

Enclosed please find a file-stamped copy of the Joint Report No. 24 that we have filed with the Court.

Sincerely,

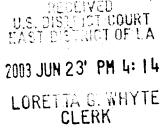
LEÓNARD A. DAVIS

LAD:sn

cc:

All PSC Members Kevin McGlone

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA



IN RE:

PROPULSID

MDL NO. 1355

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION:

SECTION: L

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

JUDGE FALLON

MAG. WELLS ROBY

JOINT REPORT NO. 24 OF PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC) jointly submit this Report No. 24.

I. <u>Update of Rolling Document Production and Electronic Document Production</u> -

DLC has advised that there is no further scheduled document production. PLC continues to discuss this with the Plaintiffs' Discovery Team and will be discussing this further with DLC.

PLC has advised DLC of additional issues that have come up regarding certain CD's produced during discovery. PLC is awaiting response to these various requests.

II. <u>State Liaison Counsel</u> - (Minute Entry, November 16, 2000)

The State Liaison Committee will report to the Court regarding the efforts of the Committee at the June 26, 2003 monthly status conference.

III. Patient Profile Form and Authorization

As of June 20, 2003, defendants have received 2256 PPF's, 169 are overdue, and 64 will become due in thirty days.

DLC has filed a Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice as to the overdue PPF's. PLC opposes the motion. The motion was set for hearing on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at which time the Judge took the matter under advisement and deferred ruling until the regularly scheduled status conference on June 26, 2003 when Defendants will provide the Court with a final list of plaintiffs who should be dismissed.

IV. Service List of Attorneys

The parties will present the Court with the most current Master List of all Counsel, which will contain, where available, e-mail addresses.

V. Third Party Subpoena Duces Tecum

DLC provided the information relative to the Dr. Zipes subpoena duces tecum.

On May 20, 2003, counsel for McKinsey & Company wrote PLC and advised that documents responsive to the subpoena duces tecum were sent to attorney Chris Seeger.

Medicom has represented in writing to PLC that the company has no documents responsive to the subpoena. On April 4, 2003, Defendants forwarded a certification to Lynn Sturgis of Medicom. Ms. Sturgis has represented to Defendants that prior to executing the document she needs her company's attorney to review the certification. Defendants have contacted Ms. Sturgis on several occasions regarding the status of such certification and are awaiting her response.

The Degge Group produced to PLC on June 13, 2003 documents responsive to the subpoena deuces tecum following the review by a representative of the Plaintiff's Discovery Team of the Degge documents. Degge further advises that it will be producing a privilege log.

VI. Motion on Class Certification.

The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the June 26, 2003 Monthly Status.

VII. Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Respective Requests for Production of Documents

On December 23, 2002, PLC served upon DLC Request for Admissions and Interrogatory regarding business records of Defendants. PLC is reviewing the objections and preparing responses. PLC is reviewing the adequacy of the responses. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the June 26, 2003 Monthly Status Conference.

On February 17, 2003, PLC served upon DLC a Motion to Compel Production of Documents of Sales Force. On April 15, 2003, DLC confirmed in writing to PLC that the hard copy documents were previously produced. The parties are scheduling a meeting to discuss whether the production of electronic materials should be addressed in a remand order, which would preserve this issue for the transferor court on an as-needed, case specific basis.

PLC previously filed with the Court a Motion to Compel regarding Norcisapride. The parties have been engaged in the additional discovery that was agreed upon. At the present time, there is no action to be taken regarding this motion, and, upon completion of the agreed upon discovery, the parties will advise the Court further.

On January 24, 2003, PLC served upon DCL Plaintiffs' Merit Interrogatories to Defendants, Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc. and Johnson & Johnson - Set No. 7. The First Response was filed by defendants on April 21, 2003, a supplemental response was received on April 30, 2003, and a second supplemental response was received on June 10, 2003. DLC advises that an additional supplement is to be forthcoming. PLC awaits receipt of this information before it can judge the adequacy of any responses. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the June 26, 2003 monthly status conference.

VIII. Trust Account

In accordance with Pre-Trial No. 16 Defendants continue to deposit settlement funds into the Court's Registry. On June 2, 2003, the PLC filed with the Court the a second Motion of The Plaintiffs' Steering Committee For Release and Disbursement of Funds from Deposits Made to the Registry of the Court Pursuant to Pretrial Order No. 16. The matter was set for hearing on June 17, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. The motion is presently under advisement and PLC has scheduled a on June 23, 2003 with representatives of the State Liaison Committee to discuss the motion. PLC will be prepared to discuss this at the June 26, 2003 monthly status conference.

IX. <u>Declassified Documents</u>

The parties have nothing new to report since last month's Status Conference.

X. Mediation

Various plaintiffs have submitted medical records and related materials ("settlement brochures") to DLC for purposes of settlement or mediation of their claims for wrongful death.

No mediations haveoccurred since the last status conference. The parties advise that approximately 13 (thirteen) additional mediations are presently being scheduled during the first week of August 2003. Defendants advise that currently 22 of the settlement brochures submitted by plaintiffs to the defendants meet the defendants' settlement consideration criteria.

Defendants are still reviewing 33 settlement brochures to determine whether they meet the defendants' settlement consideration criteria. Plaintiffs have requested that Defendants reanalyze some of the brochures previously submitted that Plaintiffs believe meet Defendants' mediation criteria.

XI. Trial Schedule

There are no cases set for trial in the United States Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The parties are discussing case selection for trials in late 2003. PLC and DLC will be prepared to discuss this at the June 26, 2003 monthly status conference.

XII. Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements

DLC continues to produce copies of all MDL pharmacy indemnity agreements which Defendants have executed to PLC. DLC will continue to furnish such agreements, if any, as they are executed.

XIII. Verilaw

The parties have had no further communication from Verilaw since the last status conference. This item may be removed from the agenda.

XIV. End Game Planning Committee

Counsel for defendants and representatives of the PSC and the Plaintiffs' Settlement

Committee have been discussing a system to formalize criteria and monetary evaluations for
those cases which defendants are prepared to mediate. The parties have met and communicated
several times since the last status conference. The parties plan to report to the Court at the June
26, 2003 Monthly Status Conference concerning the status and efforts to reach such an
agreement.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

XV. Motions to Withdraw

Several counsel have filed motions to withdraw as counsel of record. PLC and DLC have discussed this and will be prepared to discuss this further at the June 26, 2003 status conference.

XVI. Donald and Loretta Anderson

Claimants' counsel, Laurence Springberg, filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Minute Entry dated May 23, 2003 concerning the Motion to Withdraw, which is set for hearing on July 9, 2003. Defendants are preparing an opposition to the Motion.

Agenda

A proposed Agenda for the June 26, 2003 Monthly Status Conference is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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CO-LEAD COUNSEL FOR Defendants, JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA INC. AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Report No. 24 of Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Liaison Counsel was served on Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel by hand and e-mail and by e-service to all parties by uploading same to Verilaw, on this 23 day of June, 2003.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

: MDL NO. 1335

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SECTION: L

JUDGE FALLON

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THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

Monthly Status Conference June 26, 2003 - 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Current Matters:

- 1. Update of Rolling Document Production and Electronic Document Production
- 2. State Liaison Counsel
- 3. Patient Profile Form and Authorization
- 4. Service List of Attorneys
- 5. Third Party Subpoena Duces Tecum
- 6. Motion on Class Certification
- 7. Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Respective Requests for Production of Documents
- 8. Trust Account
- 9. Declassified Documents

- 10. Mediation
- 11. Trial Schedule
- 12. Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements
- 13. Verilaw
- 14. End Game Planning Committee
- 15. Motions to Withdraw
- 16. Donald and Loretta Anderson